

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

10 January 2003

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

HOT ISSUES	2
Backpacks Source of Face, Ankle and Hand Injuries	2
Employers Required to Provide for Continuation of Health Insurance Benefits to Military Reservists Called to Active Duty in Iraq.....	2
Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body	2
Lyme Disease Risk Rises as Species Disappear	3
Military Deploys Digitized Patient Record	3
Protection Orders Do Help Abused Women	3
Smoking May Exacerbate Muscle, Joint Pain.....	4
USEUCOM	4
Burkina Faso: Help Requested Against Meningitis	4
South Africa: Eastern Cape Cholera Death Toll Rises to Eight.....	4
Fifty Percent of Bacteremia Cases in England’s Hospitals Linked to Devices	5
France Bans Some Oysters as Oil Pollutes Coast	5
Italy Readies High-Tech Emergency Plan on Stromboli	5
Kampala Bans Local Bottled Drinks Following Cholera Outbreak.....	5
London: Warning on Ricin.....	6
Malawi: Floods Wash Away Vital Crops	6
USCENTCOM	6
Malaria Outbreak in Kenya Kills Eight.....	6
Officials Estimate 40,000 Afghan Children Threatened by Whooping Cough	7
USNORTHCOM	7
Canada, Mexico Ban California Poultry	7
CDC Reports Jump in Flu-related Deaths.....	7
Cook Eggs Thoroughly to Prevent Salmonella: CDC.....	8
FDA Clears Innovative Bandage to Stop Severe Bleeding on the Battlefield.....	8
Norwalk Stomach Virus Hits Boston Area Hard	8
Salmonellosis in Raw Milk - USA (Ohio)	8
USPACOM	9
All Found Safe on Third South Pacific Storm Island.....	9
Indian Endocrinologists Warn of Vitamin D Deficiency.....	9

Malaysia: 54 Deaths Due To Dengue Fever	9
Philippines: Clean Air Act Delayed	10
South Asian Cold Wave Kills Nearly 400	10

USSOUTHCOM..... 10

Bolivia: A Case of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Confirmed in Santa Cruz.....	10
Dominican Republic: Dengue Fever Cases Increasing	11
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Alert in Colombia Due to Outbreak in Venezuela	11

HOT ISSUES

Backpacks Source of Face, Ankle and Hand Injuries

06 January – Reuters reported according to a new report, back problems are the least common acute injury caused by backpacks. The survey of 247 school-aged children with backpack injuries who showed up at 100 US emergency departments found that the head or face was the most common injury site (22%), followed by the hand (14%), wrist or elbow (13%), shoulder (12%) and foot or ankle (12%). Back injuries accounted for just 11% of injuries, and the combination of wearing a backpack and sustaining an injury to the back accounted for just 6% of all injuries, according to the report in the January issue of Pediatrics. [View Article](#)

Employers Required to Provide for Continuation of Health Insurance Benefits to Military Reservists Called to Active Duty in Iraq

07 January – Insurance Newsnet reported as members of America's military reserves prepare to be called to active duty, employers around the country are being reminded of their obligation to continue to provide group health insurance for these servicemen and women and their families while they are away in Iraq serving our country. Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994, a group health plan -- regardless of its size -- must provide up to 18 months of continuous health coverage to employees on uniformed service leave. This coverage also applies to any dependents that were covered under the plan at the commencement of the employee's leave. If the period of military service does not exceed 31 days, USERRA provides that the employer may charge the employee for coverage only to the extent that the employee would have been charged if employed. If the leave period exceeds 31 days, the employer may charge up to 102 percent of the full premium for coverage under COBRA or what is prescribed in prevailing state COBRA regulations (COBRA is an act which allows terminated employees or those who lose coverage because of reduced work hours to buy group coverage for themselves and their families for limited periods of time). Military reservists who are called up for active duty in the armed forces may also be covered under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). Employers are reminded that this program does not permit them to terminate COBRA or state-specific COBRA coverage; and, similarly, insurance carriers may not terminate COBRA coverage for reservists and/or their families on the grounds that they have other coverage under CHAMPUS.

Those who have questions or concerns about continuation coverage rights should contact the US Department of Labor at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra/mainmenu.asp>. [View Article](#)

Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body

06 January— Health Scout News reported the links between oral health and overall health are many, dental and other experts now concur. Over the years, dentists have changed the scope of their exams, partly to catch such diseases in their early stages, says Dr. Craig W. Valentine, a spokesman for the Academy of General Dentistry. A look in the mouth by a dentist, he says, can yield a lot of valuable health information. However, many people aren't taking advantage of this knowledge, according to a recent survey of nearly 300 Americans, aged 45 to 64, that was commissioned by the academy. While 78 percent of those polled say dental care is a vital part of preventive health care, 49 percent admitted they don't visit the dentist every six months as recommended. And 31 percent only go to the dentist if they have an emergency, such as a terrible toothache, or they never go. [View Article](#)

Lyme Disease Risk Rises as Species Disappear

06 January - Reuters reported as the variety of animals living in a particular area declines, the risk of Lyme disease, and perhaps other illnesses, may rise, according to a new study. This seems to occur because white-footed mice, which are more likely to pass on the disease to ticks, continue to thrive even as other animals become scarce, according to Dr. Kathleen LoGiudice and colleagues. These ticks, in turn, can transmit the bacterium that causes Lyme disease to people. The findings could have implications for land planning. According to LoGiudice, "there is much more to learn about the relationship between diversity and Lyme disease risk, but right now, it appears that we will increase the risk if we reduce host biodiversity." [View Article](#)

Military Deploys Digitized Patient Record

23 December – DefenseLINK reported a computerized system will eventually provide military physicians with fast, around-the-clock access to patient records anywhere in the world, a DoD health care official noted. The Composite Health Care System II, a digitized, networked patient record system, has been green-lighted for deployment to serve the military health care system's 8.7 million beneficiaries. The recently approved system is slated to debut at up to seven military hospitals within the next year. "We will gather lessons learned and then we plan to go worldwide over the next three-year period," Navy Dr. (Cmdr.) Robert Wah explained. Global implementation of CHCS II could take up to five years. Availability of CHCS II will provide a "data gold mine" for military physicians and other health care professionals, he said. "We can use powerful computers to go in and 'mine' information to help us take better care of our patients," he explained. Additionally, the database can provide "symptom surveillance," he said. That means it could reveal where "a set of symptoms may be coming through our system (and could) alert us earlier to a possible epidemic or even a biological or chemical attack," he continued. [View Article](#)

Protection Orders Do Help Abused Women

02 January – Reuters reported while only one in 5 women who have been abused, stalked or raped get a civil protection order against a boyfriend or husband, a new study suggests that those who do get them are less likely to experience further abuse than women who do not. In the current study, lead author Dr. Victoria L. Holt of the University of Washington in Seattle and colleagues, followed a group of 448 women who had been abused by a partner. According to the report, 253 of the women obtained civil protection orders while the other women only reported the incident to the police. All of the women were interviewed about abuse they

encountered at the beginning and end of the 9-month study period. The women who got a civil protection order were 60% less likely to have further contact with the abuser, 70% less likely to suffer further injury and 80% less likely have more abuse-related medical expenses. However, the protection orders did not cut down on harassing phone calls. The study is published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine 2003;24. [View Article](#)

Smoking May Exacerbate Muscle, Joint Pain

02 January – Reuters reported smoking may also affect muscle and tissue changes, researchers suggest. A survey of nearly 13,000 Britons found that smokers complain more often of discomforting or disabling musculoskeletal pain than never-smokers. The association was found "even in ex-smokers," suggesting that smoking may cause long-term damage to muscle tissues or changes in the neurological pain response, according to researchers led by Dr. K. T. Palmer of Southampton General Hospital in Southampton, UK. In their study, Palmer's team found that, compared with those who had never smoked, current smokers had about a 50% higher incidence of reporting "pain in the past year preventing activity," meaning pain so severe it precluded the individual from going to work or performing housework or hobby activities. Pain at all sites--lower back, shoulders, elbows, hands, neck and knees--was higher in smokers than never-smokers. What's more, this association held even among respondents who had white-collar or other jobs that did not require heavy lifting or moving. The report is published in the current issue of Annals of Rheumatic Diseases; 2002;62:33-36. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

Burkina Faso: Help Requested Against Meningitis

02 January – ProMED reported Burkina Faso's government has asked the World Health Organization (WHO) for help in its fight against meningitis. The Ministry of Health reported 123 cases of the disease, 16 of them fatal, were reported by the country's 53 health districts from 9 to 15 Dec 2002. None of the districts had reached "warning stage" (5 cases for 100 000 inhabitants) or epidemic stage (10 cases for 100 000 inhabitants), however, there is a regular increase in the number of suspected cases since November 2002. Analyses of the first cases revealed the "persistence" of a new strain, W135, which killed 1474 persons out of 12,794 infected between February and May 2002. "There is a risk of a W135 meningitis epidemic in the year 2003 since populations have not been immunized, while there is no sign that the other strains will not occur." WHO said at the time that the emergence of the W-135 strain in West Africa earlier this year had given renewed urgency to the search for a more effective and affordable vaccine. It said 5 million doses of Tetravalent were needed immediately and about 50 million over the next 5 years, but it could only purchase 2 million doses -- at US \$2.75 each -- for 2003 because of financial limitations. [View Article](#)

South Africa: Eastern Cape Cholera Death Toll Rises to Eight

06 January – AllAfrica.com reported the death toll from a cholera outbreak in the former Transkei area of the Eastern Cape has risen to eight, the provincial health department said on Monday afternoon. A total of 76 people were being treated for cholera symptoms at the Umtata General Hospital. The villages worst affected by the outbreak were Baziya, Buhlungwana and Caguba in the vicinity of Port St Johns. They all fall under the OR Tambo district municipality.

The provincial government would make R1 million available to the municipality on Monday for emergency sanitation, Kupelo said. Each of the three villages would get R300000 for temporary toilets, while the other R100000 would be used to provide clean water for all affected areas. Tents had been sent to each village for use as makeshift clinics, and nurses were deployed to all affected areas, Kupelo said. [View Article](#)

Fifty Percent of Bacteremia Cases in England's Hospitals Linked to Devices

04 January – The British Medical Journal published a study where the incidence of device related bacteremia in teaching hospitals is more than twice that in other hospitals in England, and central lines are the most common source, a new study has found. The incidence of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was also found to be higher in teaching hospitals. Surveillance targeted at devices is the most efficient strategy for dealing with the problem, say the authors, from the Public Health Laboratory Service. Device related sources were responsible for 52.4% and 43.2% of all hospital-acquired bacteremia in teaching and non-teaching hospitals respectively. Sources not related to devices accounted for about a quarter of all cases of hospital-acquired bacteremia. [View Article](#)

France Bans Some Oysters as Oil Pollutes Coast

06 January – Reuters reported oysters and other shellfish farmed in the Arcachon basin near Bordeaux were banned over fears of contamination by toxic fuel oil spilled from the sunken tanker *Prestige*, officials said. Seafood industry heads decided they had no choice but to immediately stop the gathering of shellfish in the oil-tainted basin. The sale of oysters and other seafood from the area was banned from 5 PM 05 January. "We do not want there to be the slightest doubt about our products," regional shellfish industry head Marc Druart said. The 26-year-old, single-hulled *Prestige*, laden with 77,000 tons of oil, sprang a leak in November off the northwest Spanish coast and sank six days later after snapping in half. [View Article](#)

Italy Readies High-Tech Emergency Plan on Stromboli

05 January – Reuters reported Italian rescue workers set up a satellite-linked early warning system on Stromboli 05 January amid fears the volcanic island off the toe of Italy could trigger a tidal wave, a civil protection official said. Volcanic activity on Stromboli caused a massive wave on Monday that crashed into a coastal village, injuring three people, damaging several homes and overturning boats. The 3,000-foot-high volcano has groaned and shaken all week, spewing lava and setting off several landslides, though none as big as the one that caused the huge wave. Some 10 million cubic meters, about four times the volume of the Great Pyramid of Cheops, in Egypt, slid into the sea that day as one of the volcano's slopes disintegrated. Vulcanologists are also worried about a high-pressure reservoir of magma just under the volcano's crater and fears of a full-blown eruption are running high. Most islanders have fled, but rescue workers have warned that coastal areas on nearby islands and in parts of Sicily and mainland Italy could be hit by another wave. [View Article](#)

Kampala Bans Local Bottled Drinks Following Cholera Outbreak

06 January - African Eye News Service reported Uganda's ministry of health has issued a cholera warning and banned the sale of locally produced soft drinks and bottled water after traces of feces were found in tested samples. The ministry together with the Kampala city council conducted the tests into locally packed juices and water after about 100 cholera cases were reported in the city and at least two people died. In a joint press statement last week the ministry and council said the city was a high-risk zone because sewerage had overflowed into wetlands and some protected springs in the area. It added that in some cases toilets emptied into open drainage channels. The ministry warned that water collected from springs should be boiled before use and ordered that all sewerage drains be covered. [View Article](#)

London: Warning on Ricin

07 January – BBC News reported doctors have been warned to look out for signs of exposure to the potentially lethal poison ricin, after anti-terrorist police found it at an address in north London. Six Algerian men are being questioned in connection with the discovery, made following an intelligence tip-off. Castor oil bean, from which ricin is made, and equipment and containers for crushing the beans were found where one of the men was arrested. Police said forensic analysis of the address, where a small quantity of material tested positive as ricin - was continuing. Police have not ruled out the possibility that some ricin may already have been distributed; although they believe it is highly unlikely. It is thought that whoever made the poison did not have the capability to make a bomb, but they could have aimed to create panic by trying to kill small numbers of people. [View Article](#)

Malawi: Floods Wash Away Vital Crops

06 January – IRIN News reported floods in Malawi have washed away homes and submerged crops adding a new burden to a country struggling to overcome a severe food crisis. News reports said four people died in the flooding last week, and 15,000 were left homeless. Heavy rains caused four rivers in the south of the country to burst their banks. A rail bridge collapsed on the line linking Malawi with the Mozambican port of Nacala, along which much of the country's relief food is transported. Sections of the main highway connecting the commercial city of Blantyre with the administrative capital Lilongwe were under water, and the road from Lilongwe to the north was also cut. Most of the flooding was caused by tropical cyclone *Delfina*, but environmental degradation was also to blame. Tree cover has been denuded by charcoal production in a country where electricity supplies reach only four percent of a 12 million population. Southern Africa is facing an El Nino event this year, which is associated with erratic weather conditions. [View Article](#)

USCENTCOM

Malaria Outbreak in Kenya Kills Eight

02 January – AllAfrica.com reported a malaria outbreak has killed at least eight people in Galole and Bura constituencies of Tana River District in the past five days. Thirty-five more people from Waldena, Wayu and Kalkacha locations were admitted to the Hola District Hospital on Monday. Another 188 people have been treated at various health centers since last Friday. Tana River medical officer of health Steven Mwakangalu said the figure could rise because of poor access

to some of the affected areas. Dr Mwakangalu confirmed that the majority of the victims were children aged below 10 years. He attributed the outbreak to the rains that have ravaged the area since September. Remote areas of the district that have no medical facilities and where communication is poor are the hardest hit by the epidemic. [View Article](#)

Officials Estimate 40,000 Afghan Children Threatened by Whooping Cough

5 January 5 – The Nando Times reported U.N. and Afghan health officials flew by helicopter to northeastern Afghanistan, where the United Nations said Sunday that whooping cough was threatening the lives of 40,000 children. In November, at least 61 children died from the disease in the northeastern district of Khwahan in Badakhshan province, where antibiotics have since been provided to 2,000 children and mothers, the U.N. said. The latest reports now indicate that whooping cough has affected Darwaz district, north of Khwahan, said David Singh, a spokesman for the U.N. mission in Afghanistan. An emergency team of health officials from the United Nations and the Afghan Ministry of Health flew Thursday by helicopter to Darwaz and will rush extra supplies of vaccines and vaccination equipment to the affected area in the next few days, Singh said. Emergency teams also will travel to the remote region from neighboring Tajikistan, which is supporting the effort, the World Health Organization said in a statement. [View Article](#)

USNORTHCOM

Canada, Mexico Ban California Poultry

03 January – The Las Vegas Sun reported Canada and Mexico have banned shipments of poultry and poultry products from California because of the outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease, the California Farm Bureau said. The disease, which threatens the state's \$3 billion poultry industry, is harmless to humans but fatal to birds. State farm officials said Canada would stop all shipments of poultry and its products from California for 14 days. Mexico, the state's leading export market for poultry, also called for a similar ban. The California Poultry Federation, which represents about 160 poultry farmers, was lobbying for the bans to be modified to include only six quarantined counties in Southern California. [View Article](#)

CDC Reports Jump in Flu-related Deaths

08 January – CNN reported the number of people who die each year from influenza has risen substantially, partly because the U.S. population is aging and partly because of the increase in influenza type A, a particularly virulent strain of influenza, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. An estimated average of 36,000 people die from flu-related complications each year in the United States, up from 20,000 in previous estimates. The data also show about 11,000 people die each year from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which causes upper and lower respiratory tract infections primarily in young children and older adults. Most of those deaths are among the elderly. The primary strategy for preventing flu-related deaths continues to be vaccination, the CDC said. Research is also needed to develop flu vaccines that better protect the elderly, and develop RSV vaccines that are effective in both children and the elderly. [View Article](#)

Cook Eggs Thoroughly to Prevent Salmonella: CDC

02 January - Reuters reported much more needs to be done to prevent a type of salmonella infection that is most often caused by eating raw or undercooked eggs, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cases of this type of salmonella, known as serotype enteritidis, dropped during the second half of the 1990s, but they remained steady from 1999 through 2001. The first-line defense against salmonella is egg control programs in farms. Such programs should include salmonella screening in hen houses. If salmonella is detected, these eggs can be pasteurized to make sure that they will not make anyone sick. "Consumption of raw and undercooked eggs should be avoided," Dr. Srikantiah of the CDC said. The risk of eating eggs that have not been thoroughly cooked is greatest for the very young and very old, as well as people with weakened immune systems. The CDC recommends cooking eggs until both the white and the yolk are firm. Be sure to eat eggs promptly after cooking, the CDC advises. [View Article](#)

FDA Clears Innovative Bandage to Stop Severe Bleeding on the Battlefield

07 January – Hoovers reported a revolutionary new medical tool, a bandage that actually stops bleeding, has just received clearance by the Food and Drug Administration. Intended for civilian and military use, the HemCon™ bandage's first customers will be U.S. army soldiers. Made from chitosan, a shrimp-based product, the bandage halts severe bleeding and is being manufactured by Portland, Oregon-based, HemCon, Inc. HemCon has already secured three government contracts to immediately supply over 6,000 bandages. An injured soldier, combat medic or untrained first responder can easily apply the HemCon™ Bandage, which is designed for immediate hemorrhage control. The bandage allows the wound to quickly form a strong, adherent clot, enabling a patient to be transported, and offers rapid, strong adhesion to the injury site to seal the wound -- specific criteria mandated by the military. The device is durable enough to withstand blunt force and comes in an array of sizes and configurations to provide hemorrhage control to a wide variety of traumatic wounds. [View Article](#)

Norwalk Stomach Virus Hits Boston Area Hard

07 December – The Boston Globe reported public-health authorities in Boston are tracking more than 700 cases of Norwalk virus, an unusually extensive outbreak. In the past six weeks, the Boston Public Health Commission has investigated 17 separate outbreaks of Norwalk, with 186 people falling ill at one long-term care center alone. Typically, the agency would expect fewer than five clusters in a comparable period. The experience in Boston mirrors a spike across the state - and in New York City - of an illness whose onset is marked by diarrhea, vomiting, and nausea. "We'd almost call it an epidemic level," said John Auerbach, executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission. While the clusters of cases identified so far have been restricted chiefly to nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and hospitals, disease trackers said yesterday they believe the virus is also striking many members of the general public across the state. Explanations for the outbreak vary, with disease specialists suggesting that it may indicate new strains of the virus in circulation as well as increased awareness of its existence. [View Article](#)

Salmonellosis in Raw Milk - USA (Ohio)

04 January – ProMED reported since last month, 47 people have been confirmed with cases of Salmonella. Test results pointed to unpasteurized milk as the culprit, and people who recently tested positive may have gotten it from others. Local health officials said that the salmonella outbreak was originally linked to a local dairy, but analysis of bacterial strains statewide show the salmonella connected to the dairy is the same as one found in Ross County in south-central Ohio in October 2002 and in Columbiana County, Ohio in the summer of 2002. "It did not originate [at the dairy]," said Charles Patterson, Clark County's health commissioner. "We're trying to find some epidemiological link between the dairy and where it came from." But finding that link may be difficult, he said. Dairy employees accounted for 16 cases of the infection. Now health officials want to see whether those workers are linked to Ross or Columbiana counties. The Ohio Department of Health is also asking health officials in those counties whether the people who tested positive traveled in the Springfield area. [View Report](#)

USPACOM

All Found Safe on Third South Pacific Storm Island

07 January – Reuters reported islanders on a third isolated South Pacific outpost hit by a cyclone 10 days ago were found to have survived, with no deaths or serious injuries, Australian officials said. It took emergency crews a week to reach the remote Solomon Islands chain after Cyclone Zoe hammered the area with 190 mph winds, leaving the fate of up to 3,700 islanders unknown because of a lack of radio contact. But emergency crews arriving in the area Sunday found no one on Tikopia, the largest island that bore the brunt of the storm, was killed or seriously injured by the storm that destroyed homes and crops. A survey by the French military found a similar situation on the smaller island of Mota Lava, part of neighboring Vanuatu. The volcanic islands, at the furthest reaches of the sprawling Solomons archipelago, are among the most remote in the world, lying about 1,900 miles northeast of Australia. [View Article](#)

Indian Endocrinologists Warn of Vitamin D Deficiency

04 January – The British Medical Journal published a study where Vitamin D deficiency is causing severe bone loss in adults across northern India despite abundant sunlight in the region, leading Indian endocrinologists have said. Inadequate exposure to sunlight and poor nutrition are factors contributing to the vitamin D deficiency. Osteomalacia, the loss of calcium from bones brought about by vitamin D deficiency, is leading to life threatening emergencies in young adults. Doctors in several hospitals also say their clinical experience has been contrary to the expectations that vitamin D deficiency would be rare in India because of an abundance of sunlight. A survey by pediatricians at New Delhi's Kasturba Hospital earlier this year showed the presence of rickets among city children. [View Article](#)

Malaysia: 54 Deaths Due To Dengue Fever

06 January – ProMed reported Dengue fever has claimed 54 lives this year, with 10,753 confirmed cases reported nationwide, a senior health official said. "Malaysia is currently experiencing an increase in the number of cases compared to last year, but it has not reached the epidemic stage," S. Sothinathan, the Health Ministry parliament secretary, told Agence France Presse (AFP). Sothinathan attributed the rise in deaths to the current situation, in which

Malaysia is facing intermittent rainfalls and hot weather, both of which encourage mosquito breeding. Lim Kit Siang, chairman of the Chinese-dominated Democratic Action Party, had urged the government to declare a nationwide alert. Lim urged the government to launch a media campaign immediately to boost national awareness and curb the loss of any more lives. Children have suffered more fatalities than in previous years. [View Report](#)

Philippines: Clean Air Act Delayed

06 January – Reuters reported smoggy skies over the Philippine capital will take a little longer to clear after motorcycle taxi drivers won a reprieve Monday from the Clean Air Act that came into force at the start of the year. Hundreds of drivers brought traffic to an even slower crawl than usual in parts of Manila as they took their vehicles in a procession to the presidential palace to protest against the new anti-pollution law. The Clean Air Act calls for emission tests and the phasing out of two-stroke engines. Under the law, which also calls for fewer additives in gasoline and other measures to cut the haze hanging over the nation's largest cities, drivers of Manila's 120,000 motorcycle taxis must use cleaner but more expensive four-stroke engines. The government, allowing drivers more time to comply, said it would set up a committee of transportation officials, motorcycle taxi operators, manufacturers and non-governmental organizations to discuss the issues. A study by the World Bank showed fine particle emissions caused an estimated 2,000 premature deaths and 9,000 cases of chronic bronchitis each year in the nation's four largest cities. [View Article](#)

South Asian Cold Wave Kills Nearly 400

08 January – The New York Times reported nearly 400 people have died of cold in Bangladesh and northern India in the past 10 days as temperatures plummeted and cold winds swept in from the Himalayas. Temperatures dipped into the 30s and 40s Fahrenheit -- dangerous levels in impoverished India and Bangladesh, where millions of people live without heat, electricity and warm clothing. Most of the dead were children and elderly villagers who lived in mud-and-straw huts and could not afford warm clothing. At least 200 children have been hospitalized with fever. District authorities in the worst hit areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states have ordered public bonfires to be lit and allowed the use of schools and government buildings as shelters for the homeless. In Bangladesh, the weather office said it would remain cold and foggy for another week. [View Article](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Bolivia: A Case of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Confirmed in Santa Cruz

06 January – ProMed reported 5 suspected cases of classic dengue fever have been reported from Cochabamba: 2 in the city and 3 in the zone of Chapare. Roman Callata, responsible for the Malaria Department of the Departmental Health Service (Sedes), said that in December 2002, Santa Cruz registered 12 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and confirmed one death of a child in Plan Tres Mil. The test was done in the Centro de Enfermedades Tropicales (Cenetrop). In 2002, there were 182 cases of dengue virus types 1 and 2. It is not clear from this report whether this fatal case was due to dengue virus type 3 and marks the beginning of a new threat to that region of Bolivia in the lowlands east of the Andes. [View Report](#)

Dominican Republic: Dengue Fever Cases Increasing

06 January – ProMed reported the Subdirector of the Robert Reid Cabral Hospital in Santo Domingo Jose Dominguez Garabito, said that since November 2002 the hospital had seen 188 suspect cases of dengue fever, of which 88 were classic, 81 had hemorrhagic signs, and 19 were cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever. The cases are coming from all over the country, but mainly from Santo Domingo province. 6 new cases of dengue fever were registered between Mon 30 Dec 2002 and Thu 2 Jan 2003. In 2002 the country registered 2700 suspect cases of dengue with 30 deaths, of which about 15 were laboratory confirmed. [View Report](#)

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Alert in Colombia Due to Outbreak in Venezuela

06 January – ProMed reported the Venezuelan Autonomous Service of Plant and Animal Health (SASA) confirmed 6 foci of type A foot-and-mouth disease [FMD] in the states of Merida and Zulia, which prompted the Colombian Institute of Plant and Animal Health (ICA) to issue an alert to cattle farmers in the states of La Guajira, Cesar, and Norte de Santander. Given the situation and the serious risk to the current status of that region of Colombia as free of FMD with vaccination, ICA urged the community to abstain from trading in live cattle and products derived from them near the border with Venezuela. Alvaro Abisambra, director of ICA, explained that the measure bans for a period of 3 months the entry into Colombia of cattle, sheep, swine, and other susceptible species and their by-products originating from those Venezuelan states where the virus has been identified. [View Report](#)

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hioupdate/>.

POC: Rachel Gross, PhD
Rachel.Gross@APG.amedd.army.mil
Lorraine Bell, DrPH, MSN
Lorraine.Bell@APG.amedd.army.mil

Approved:

[Kevin Delaney](#)

Chief, Health Information Operations

(410) 436-5217 or DSN 584-5217

ACRONYMS

AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center
BBC – British Broadcasting Company
BMJ – British Medical Journal
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CIDRAP – Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CNN – Cable News Network
CSR – Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response – A branch of the WHO
DoD/GEIS – Department of Defense/Global Emerging Infections System
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
FDA – Food and Drug Administration
IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the [UN](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
MMWR – Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
MSNBC – Microsoft National Broadcasting Company
NASA – National Aeronautic and Space Association
NIH – National Institute of Health
NIOSH- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
VOA-Voice of America
WHO – World Health Organization